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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/674,247

09/29/2003

Donald E. Weder

8403.968

3184

30589

7590

10/23/2006

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73113

EXAMINER

PALO, FRANCIS T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3644

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,247

Applicant(s)

WEDER, DONALD E.

Examiner

Francis T. Palo

Art Unit

3644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 17-20, 23-25, 28-30, 33-44 and 54-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-7, 17-20, 23, 24, 28-30, 33-41 and 54-60 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 9, 25 and 42-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 July 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 1-7, 17-20, 23, 24, 28-30, 33-41 and 54-60 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 7/6/06.

Cancellation of claims 10-16, 21, 22, 26, 27, 31, 32, 45-53 and 61-64 is acknowledged.

Applicant's election without traverse of **claims 8, 9, 25 and 42-44** in the reply filed on 7/6/06 is acknowledged.

Specification

The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors.

Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8, 9, 25 and 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a),
as being unpatentable over **Landau** (US 5,235,782) 1993,
in view of **Weder** (US 5,029,412) 1991.

Regarding the independent **claims 8 and 42**:

The two claims appear to be a rewording of one another.

Landau teaches a laminated sleeve initially having a flattened state; Landau is not specific to the sleeve material recited in the claims, specifically, a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film.

Weder '412 is relied upon for the teaching of a plant sleeve constructed of a single layer or a plurality of layers of the same or different types of material (col.-3, lines 17-20 thereabout). Weder is further specific to combinations of cloth and polymeric film as claimed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have constructed the sleeve of Landau of materials as taught by Weder and as claimed, as further such modification is old in the art as taught by Weder '412.

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Further, the recitation 'at least a portion of the layer of polymeric film laminated to the layer of cloth' as claimed, is encompassed by the concept of lamination as taught by Landau.

Regarding repeating **claims 9 and 43**:

The discussion above regarding the independent claims is relied upon.

Landau is silent as to the thickness of materials as claimed.

Weder teaches construction of relatively thin material (col.-2, lines 58-60 thereabout), which encompasses the thickness range as claimed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have constructed the sleeve of Landau in the thickness ranges as claimed and as taught by Weder, as 'construction of relatively thin material' as taught by Weder encompasses the ranges claimed.

Regarding repeating **claims 25 and 44**:

The discussion above regarding the independent claims is relied upon.

Landau teaches printing informative material and decorations, as claimed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Francis T. Palo whose telephone number is 571-272-6907. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Tu.,Th.-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on 571-272-7045. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Francis T. Palo
Francis T. Palo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3644